

## EVIDENCES OF DIVINITY OF MORMONISM.

Discourse Delivered at the Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Friday, April 4, 1902, by

ELDER HYRUM M. SMITH.

The Value, Acquisition and Possession of Truth—Prayers That Are Heard Not Always Answered—Evidence of Divine Origin of the Church.

I am filled with the spirit of rejoicing today, in being permitted to join in conference with the Latter-day Saints, and in listening to the testimonies of the servants of God as they bear witness of the truth. In looking over this vast assemblage I have felt to offer in my heart a prayer of thanksgiving to my Father in heaven that He has done so much for His people. Nearly all things that the Latter-day Saints need are given to them. Whenever they ask, their prayers are heard and answered. Truth is what they have wanted, and truth is what they have, and the link which welds them all so closely together.

## INFINITE PROGRESSION OF TRUTH.

It was written in Salt Lake City a short time ago that all religions have some truth, but that no religion has all the truth. Infinite progression. While that statement is true, yet the Latter-day Saints have the assurance and the knowledge that all they have is true. Every principle, every truth, every command that has ever been given to the Saints of God in these days, from the Saints of the Prophet Joseph Smith till now, is true, because it came from God, and therefore must be true. While we have not all the truth, still we are progressing, and the truth which we have is the truth which will eventually place in the possession of the faithful Latter-day Saints all the truth. The Latter-day Saints can have any and every truth that others have. I cannot tell you the same object that you have, but I can tell you that the sun has made his appearance in the east. I, too, may have that identical knowledge. Therefore, whenever one Latter-day Saint sees a truth, whenever one knows a truth, no matter where or by whom it is possessed or found, they can possess it also; and they do usually accept gladly every truth that is brought to light. It makes no difference to them whether it be the truth of the past, or the truth of the present, or the truth of the future, who under God has been permitted to show forth that truth.

My brethren and sisters, here we are gathered together in a multitude. Thousands of us can stand up and before all men declare that this is in the Church of God, and that we have a knowledge—not a mere belief, but a knowledge—that once more the Lord has set His hand to establish a people of His own in the earth. Because we know this, we have gathered together today to listen still further to the truths that God may have to transmit to His children here. The Latter-day Saints gather in their meeting houses every week and there bear testimony one to another of the goodness of God. They testify that they know that God lives, and that He indeed has condescended to answer the humble prayer of the Prophet Joseph Smith; and they call attention to many of the gifts and blessings of God that have been made known to them since their connection with the Church. Many of them will tell of the healings of the sick which have been made manifest in their midst. They acknowledge the hand of God in the healing of their loved ones from disease and affliction. They say they know their prayers have been heard. And while that is one of the evidences of the truth of the Gospel unto us, there are, in my judgment, many other evidences greater than the healing of the sick, that God lives and is at the head of this work. It is true that many prayers are heard and answered in behalf of the sick. We know that we are given that for which we ask. We have received that for which we sought. Yet how many parents are there who have prayed earnestly and long, and with all the power of their souls, that God would give them back one who was at the point of death, and still their prayer has not been answered? How many children have also offered such prayers in behalf of parents, and yet their prayers have not been answered; but those for whom they wept and prayed have been taken away. President Woodruff often used to say that he had passed the allotted time of man and was kept alive by the faith and prayers of the Latter-day Saints. Here Abner Brigham Young comes back to us almost from the point of death, and testifies that God raised him up, and that he knew the prayers of the Latter-day Saints were ascending to Him in his behalf. Yet the time came, my brethren and sisters, when all the prayers of the Latter-day Saints, even though they were, and accompanied by the faith of the people, did not save President Woodruff from death. The time has come when our prayers in behalf of many of our loved ones have not been answered, but those for whom we have prayed have been taken away. But, my brethren and sisters, because they are taken away, is that any sign that our prayers were not heard by our Father in heaven? Not in the least. It is but an evidence that God knows best, that His will is not our will, and that the time had come when He saw it wiser not to answer that prayer. How often do parents have to deny the prayers and petitions of their own children. Notwithstanding the child desires a thing greatly, and can see no reason why he should not have it, yet in the greater wisdom of the parent his request is denied and the supposed blessing is withheld. But that is no evidence that the prayer was not considered by the parent; it is simply an evidence that the parent knows best when to give and when to withhold.

## PROMINENT OGDEN CITIZENS.

The healing of the afflictions of physical man by the power of God is one of the evidences of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; but it is a greater evidence to me, that there are, as has been mentioned, thousands of young men, Elders in Israel, filled with the power and spirit of the Holy Ghost, going abroad in the world, clothed with the Holy Priesthood and power of Almighty God, equipped with the pure and unadulterated principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, healing the nations of their spiritual and soul-destroying ailments and afflictions. These Elders go forth, taking the Gospel with them, and after they have healed men of the errors and falsehoods they have been traditioned from their youth up they bring them home to Zion. Here we are, a people from almost every nation in the world, men and women of different tongues, different customs, different beliefs, different gods; brought together, through this glorious panacea for the ills of all men, and made one in Christ Jesus, with one Lord, one faith, one baptism, knowing each other, knowing the principles of the Gospel as they have been revealed, and testifying to the truth of them—all by the power of the Holy Ghost. This is a testimony to me, greater indeed than the healing of the sick or the taking away from this life of any individual. Gathered together in fulfillment of the prophecy, are the people of God, and here they are established as an evidence that it is futile

## EVIDENCE OF HEALING.

for the world to raise a hand against the Latter-day Saints to retard their progress or check their advancement. They cannot be stopped; they must go on; for God is their leader. As Brother Roberts said he must exult a little, I often exult a great deal because of the goodness of God to His people in thwarting the efforts of unrighteous men to check the progress of and to bring reproach and ignominy upon the Saints of the Most High. I rejoice in this, and I love to see the Church grow, in spite of all they can do. I love to see the people live near unto God, obey His commands, accept the leaders of the Church as men chosen of God, hearken to their counsel, and meet together with smiling countenances. All of us may have a knowledge that this is the one, and only religion in all the wide world of which it can be said, "all they have is true." Yet how gladly we would extend it to everyone else! How gladly we would give to others that which we have received, and how assiduously are we working for the salvation of men, as is evidenced by the hundreds upon hundreds of Elders sent forth to proclaim repentance and salvation to the world!

## EVIDENCE OF ORGANIZATION.

Another evidence of the truth of the Gospel—a very strong one to me—is the organization of the Church. Look at it, my brethren and sisters. Men in the world have wondered and could not understand how it was that God could be omniscient and omnipresent, and the teaching of this doctrine has led them into all kinds of error as to who and what God is. Now, look at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—a church composed of nearly four hundred thousand people, divided into stakes and wards, and into missionary fields, presided over by men holding the holy Priesthood. Think of all that number of souls, and then bear in mind that the President of the Church can within a few hours, get in touch with the Church, and communicate with the president of the stake, whom he knows, and that president may communicate with the Bishop of a ward, the Bishop may inform his teachers that he desires information concerning a family or an individual in his ward, and the information is received, and transmitted right back to the head of the Church. In this way the President of the Church is brought in touch with all the Church, in all its branches, however remote they may be. If, then, one man, in a finite condition, can become so thoroughly acquainted with a people numbering four hundred thousand, can we not understand how easy it is for God, who is infinite, to receive all knowledge concerning all the works of His hands? The organization of the Church is as perfect as it can possibly be in our present state. All has been given us that we are capable of receiving. And Oh! how we rejoice in it, my brethren and sisters, and in the knowledge, too, that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into our hearts, what God has in store for us as we march on in that infinite progression and advancement. All things will be given to us—all power, all glory, all knowledge, even as our Father in heaven possesses it—in due

## Photo by Thomas.

HON. LORIN FARR.

Hon. Lorin Farr is one of the most widely known men in the state of Utah, and has figured prominently in the building up of the state especially in Weber county and the northern section. He is a man of sterling worth and noble character, possessing those qualities that have made him a leader in the community and have endeared him to thousands of people all over the west. He has always been a public spirited man, and has done much for the building up of the Church and commonwealth.

Mr. Farr was born July 27, 1820, at Waterford, Caledonia county, Vermont. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in his boyhood days and lived for some time with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his family. He passed through all the hardships of the early days of the Church, and in 1847 emigrated to Utah with a large company of pioneers, arriving in Salt Lake Valley Sept. 29 of the same year. He lived in Salt Lake until 1850, when he was called by President Brigham Young to go to Ogden to reside over the Latter-day Saints located in the northern part of the territory.

Lorin Farr was the first president of the Weber Stake, being called to fill that position by President Young. For twenty years he presided over the Stake with great honor to himself and the Church. He was also the first mayor of Ogden City, being elected in 1852, and serving the city faithfully for twenty successive years in that position. He resigned as mayor to go on a mission. After returning home the people of Ogden, in 1878, again honored him by electing him mayor, which place he occupied for one term. He served in the Utah territorial legislature for twenty-seven years, and was also a member of the State Constitutional Convention. He was the organizer of the first military organization of northern Utah in 1852.

Mr. Farr was one of the largest railroad contractors in early days, having built the road bed for the Southern Pacific from Wells, Nevada to Ogden, in 1869.

He has a large and highly respected family, possesses considerable wealth, and lives in one of the most beautiful homes in Ogden. Although nearly 83 years of age his health is quite good and his body well preserved.

time, as we are capable of receiving them.

My brethren and sisters, ought we not to rejoice in the testimony of the truth, and ought we not to give glory to God? After He has done so much for us, ought we not to do all we can for Him, and for His children all over the world, no matter who they are, where they are, or what they are? Should we not love our enemies, and be willing to do all we can for them, even though their hand be raised against us? God has done so much for us that if we do all we can and live to the age of a tree, we will never be able to repay Him for His goodness to us.

## WHAT IS TRUTH.

Now, my brethren and sisters, we have the truth. The Prophet Joseph Smith said that the truth was a knowledge of things as they were, a knowledge of things as they are, and a knowledge of things as they are to come. Is not that a beautiful definition of truth? Does it not embrace all truth? And indeed, according to that definition, have not the Latter-day Saints more truth than all the other peoples of the wide world, because they have a greater knowledge of the dealings of God with men in the past, of man's condition in the present, and of the destiny of mankind, than any other people or denomination? And how have we received this, my brethren and sisters? Why are we thus placed above others? Because we have been willing to humble ourselves and accept the testimonies of the truth as they have been brought to us by those Elders who found us in the world without a knowledge of the truth. The Lord indeed has been merciful unto us, and I trust that He always will be, and that we will ever be worthy of the truth which God has reposed in us; that we may stand on the foundation of the principles of the Gospel as they have been made known to us and as they may yet be made known, and never deviate, never sacrifice a principle, no matter what consideration may be brought to bear upon us to do so. Stand firmly upon the foundation of the truth, you Latter-day Saints. Seek for more truth; put yourselves in a position to receive more truth; and God stands willing and anxious to still pour out upon us a knowledge of greater truths than we at present can conceive of. Let us make the truth known to others. All that the Lord has given—and He has given freely—let us be willing to give to others. Let us seek for the salvation of the souls of men. And while we are working in the world for the salvation of those who are yet in unbelief, let us work also for the salvation of the souls of our children, and bring them up to maturity in the fear and admonition and knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

May God bless us; may we still prosper; may we still be blessed; and may we never, because of the goodness of God and the blessings He has bestowed upon us freely, imagine in our souls that we are better than the other children of God. We have been more favored; we ought to be better; but never let us exalt ourselves above others. Let us be humble. Let us seek the truth, and receive it when it is made known to us. Continue on in this path of righteousness, and then indeed can the powers of the adversary not prevail with us. The Lord bless the Latter-day Saints, bless His work, bless the children of God in all the wide world. May He hasten the day when sin and wickedness, error and corruption shall be put down, and when adulterated truth may be no more retailed and wholesale to the children of men as true religion, by those calling themselves doctors of divinity, but when all men may dispense the truth for the love of the truth and for the love of seeing men come unto the Lord out of the obscurity and darkness of error and unbelief, in my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

33 1/3 Per Cent Off Table Sets, Lunch Cloths, Doylies, Etc.  
Z. C. M. I. summer sale, week commencing Monday, July 14.

Grand Ball at Saltair tonight.

The Windsor European Hotel, Adjoining Kenyon. New building, new furniture. A Fred Wey, Prop.

## PROMINENT OGDEN CITIZENS.

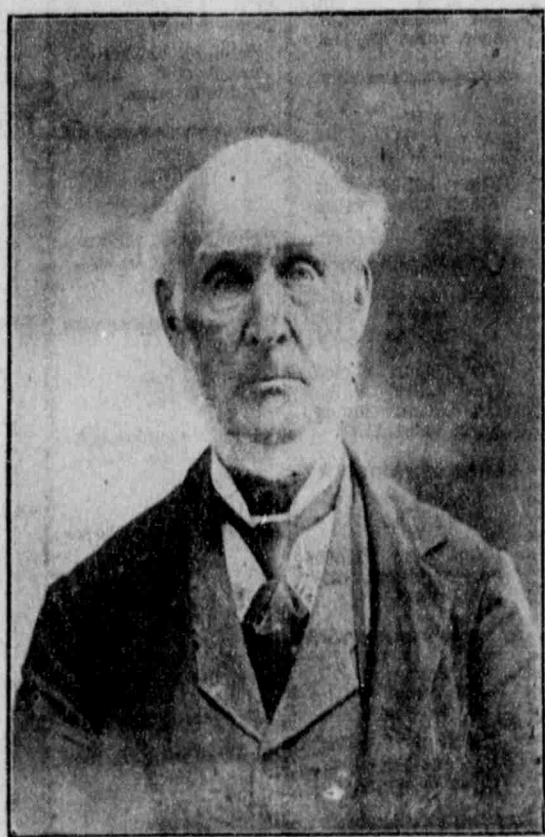


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## ANOTHER

## MAMMOTH SALE!

Commencing Monday, July 14.

ONE WEEK. Z. C. M. I.

The Staples and Linen Department of this Great Institution now Offers for ONE WEEK a . . . . .

## SPECIAL REDUCTION ON ITS ENTIRE STOCK

For the Benefit of the many thousands of people who were unable to get waited on during our Great Annual May Sale. This week we give Another PRICE - SLASHING SALE on all our Staple Lines of Goods. See these Sample Prices:

Regular 12c WASH DRESS GOODS, at	10c
per Yard . . . . .	
Regular 15c WASH DRESS GOODS, at	12 1/2c
per Yard . . . . .	
Regular 20c WASH DRESS GOODS, at	15c
per Yard . . . . .	
Regular 25c WASH DRESS GOODS, at	17 1/2c
per Yard . . . . .	

## Our Entire Lines of Novelty Dress Goods

AT HALF THE REGULAR PRICES.

See These Figures.

35 cent Goods at . . . . .	17 1/2c	35 cent Goods at . . . . .	47 1/2c
40 cent Goods at . . . . .	20c	\$1.00 Goods at . . . . .	50c
50 cent Goods at . . . . .	25c	\$1.50 Goods at . . . . .	75c
60 cent Goods at . . . . .	30c	\$2.00 Goods at . . . . .	\$1.00
75 cent Goods at . . . . .	37 1/2c	Etc., Etc.	

We direct particular attention to our Magnificent Line of

## TABLE DAMASK AND NAPKINS

We realize that owing to the Elks' Convention many Households would like to lay in an Extra Supply. We give you the opportunity, and offer these goods this week at

25% Reduction.

We also make a Special Offer this Week of

33 1/3% OFF

On all our Lunch Cloths, Tray Cloths, Scarfs, Doylies, Pillow Shams, and Table Sets.

DON'T MISS THE BARGAINS OF THIS GREAT SUMMER SALE.

AT Z. C. M. I. T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

You are Particularly Invited to observe our beautiful Lines of PUNJAUB PERCALES, SCOTCH ZEPHYRS and BATES SEERSUCKERS, which we will sell during the week at a reduction of

20 Per Cent on the Dollar.

We have New and Complete Lines of all

## Staple Dry Goods

In Sheetings, Cambrics, Muslins, Domestics, Cheviots, Check Suitings, Madras, Oxford Suitings, Gingham, Calicos, Outings, Sateens, Silkalines, Indigo Long Cloths, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towels, Crashes, and a list of other goods too long to enumerate here, which we will sell during the week at

20% OFF

N. B. For every Dollar you spend in this Department this week you will receive from \$1.25 to \$2.00 in return.

## CLOAK DEP'T SPECIALS.

FOR ONE WEEK.

## LADIES' SPRING JACKETS.

Cool evenings call for a wrap of some kind. This is a good time to supply your needs. Our entire line of Ladies' Spring Jackets and Etons, the choicest stock in the City, goes at

33 1/3 PER CENT DISCOUNT.

## Misses' and Children's Spring Jackets

For the Lake and out driving a Jacket is necessary for the children. Now is the time to save money on a necessity. All children's Spring Jackets

33 1/3 Per Cent Off.

## LADIES' SILK RAGLANS.

Our entire line of Taffeta and Beau de Soie Raglans at HALF PRICE.

## CLOSING OUT SUMMER GOODS

Ladies' Washable Suits, HALF PRICE  
Ladies' Washable Skirts, HALF PRICE  
Kimonas - - - - - HALF PRICE  
Children's Wash Dresses, HALF PRICE